The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post-Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 12, NO. 49. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1923. WHOLE NO. 620.

CLASS CHARACTER OF LABOR INJUNCTION PROVEN BY JUDGE

The class character of the labor injunction was illustrated by Judge McClintic in the federal district court at Charleston, W. Va., when he refused to enjoin Sheriff Don Chafin of Logan county from interfering with the organizing of miners in that county. The court dismissed the miners' plea on the ground that he lacked jurisdiction.

Judge McClintic recently issued an injunction against striking miners who were living in a tent colony in Mingo county on land leased by them. He ordered the miners to abandon the colony, and he would deprive the miners and their families of this poor shelter from wintry blasts but for the federal court of appeals.

In refusing to enjoin Sheriff Chafin and his Logan county gun men, Judge McClintic let it be understood that labor is subject to the injunction process only when employers would exploit it.

On the claim that union miners are denied rights under the fourteenth amendment, Judge McClintic said the state of West Virginia has passed no law abridging the privileges of any citizen, and that he is without jurisdiction to pass on the "individual invasion of the individual rights" of citizens.

Of course, Judge McClintic did not take this position when he attempted to break the miners' Mingo strike by ordering these workers to abandon a tent colony which they were living in and which was maintained on land leased by them.

In that case the miners were refusing to labor for anti-union mine owners. This, according to corporation lawyers who have been elevated to the federal judiciary, is subject to the injunction process because, they insist, the right to do business carries with it the inherent right to have access to a free flow of labor, and any interference with that free flow of labor is a "conspiracy" and can be enjoined.

This position is camouflaged with much "sound and fury" about "justice" and "rights" and "independence," but behind it all is the feudal belief that exploiters have an inherent claim to labor in an amount sufficient for their needs.

Judge McClintic's refusal of the miners' claim has emphasized the point on which the labor injunction rests, and which is so cleverly concealed by judges, lawyers, corporation agents and other defenders of the modern use of the injunction writ.

No injunction judge ever brought out so clearly the viciousness of the injunction process.

It is proven that Chafin and his gun men are violating the law and have erected a supergovernment in Logan county. Where is the injunction that is supposed to give quick action in upholding the law? The injunction is not used in this case, because that is not the purpose of the injunction.

The injunction is not intended for use by anyone but exploiters of labor. Its purpose is to drive men and women out of their temporary and rude homes into the fields and roads, so the fathers will return, hat in hand, to mine owners who would deny them every fundamental right.

No other nation in the world boasts of having in its judicial procedure such a one-sided, infamous proceeding.

LOS ANGELES IDLE REACH THOUSANDS

Washington, Feb. 24.—"The police estimate of the unemployed in this city is 25,000," says John S. Horn, secretary of the Los Angeles central labor council, writing to President Gompers on the out-of-work situation in the western city.

"If the same situation prevails in other cities that prevails in Los Angeles, you can see the absurdity of the shortage-of-labor claim," says Secretary Horn, who forwarded local newspaper accounts of the Los Angeles common council voting $10,000 to be used to employ men at $2 a day to dig a drainage ditch. Six moving picture studios will contribute a like amount.

That the number of unemployed run into the thousands is indicated by statements in the Los Angeles papers. The Record, published in that city, says:

"According to hasty estimates there are now from 12,000 to 14,000 men in the city who are unable to obtain work."

RAILROAD LABOR BOARD CAN'T ENFORCE ORDERS

The United States supreme court has ruled that decisions by the railroad labor board must depend upon public opinion for enforcement.

President Gompers shows that this is in line with labor's position and is contrary to the claim of labor opponents that the shop men's strike is "a challenge to government."

Washington, Feb. 24.—After litigation of nearly two years' duration the United States supreme court has ruled that the railroad labor board can publish the facts regarding the formation of the Pennsylvania railroad's company "union."

When this alleged "union" was started, the company arranged the election for representatives so organized shop men would be barred. The unionists certified to the railroad labor board that but 10 per cent of the employes were represented by the company "union." The board ordered a new election but the railroad ignored the order. The board then began the preparation of a public statement but Federal Judge Landis stopped this proceeding by an injunction issued at the request of the company.

The court of appeals set the injunction aside and the company appealed to the supreme court, which now rules that the labor board can issue a statement of facts but must depend on public opinion to enforce any decision it may make.

"As far as I can see," said President Gompers, "the railroad labor board has no added strength because of the decision but the Pennsylvania railroad, on the contrary, stands in a much weakened position and is accused of having adopted a wrong course, contrary to the spirit of the law, contrary to the spirit of the workers, and intended only to advance the narrow, selfish interests of the railroad."

President Gompers says it "is particularly noteworthy that the supreme court decision puts upon the transportation act the exact interpretation that has been put upon it from the beginning by the labor movement."

INCREASING PROFITS BRING NEW RAIL TUNE

New York, Feb. 24.—While financial pages in the daily press record increased railroad earnings, the public ear is deafened by the cry that "regulation is ruining the railroads."

Railroad earnings are not generally noticed by the average reader who does not take time to decipher financial jargon. The railroads' hard-luck story, however, is always noticed, as somehow it manages to get "top of column, next to pure reading matter."

A few months ago railroad financiers insisted that the Cummins-Esch law be amended. Politicians took the hint and began to owlishly talk such generalities as "retain the good of the Cummins-Esch law and eliminate the unworkable." It looked at one time as though the financiers would accept labor's opposition to this law. But a change was noticed when profits increased and the status of the new congress became known. The wise men began to hint that if the railroad question is opened up by the new congress, no one knows what will happen.

Throughout the land was then heard the refrain: "Let well enough alone," "Give the railroads time to work out their problems." In fact, the financiers became almost as enthusiastic over the Cummins-Esch law as when they jammed it through congress with the greatest lobby ever assembled in the nation's capital.

While financiers talk this way in the financial section of the daily press, their publicity agents and banquet barkers recite their funeral tale about the "railroads being strangled," etc., etc. And to add to the general gloom phonographic editors discuss the catastrophe that threatens our fair land, which is now paying the price for "tolerating destructive agitators," they say.

These prophets of woe and singers of sorrow also declare the railroads can no longer raise money because of the campaign of abuse, suspicion and hate carried on against them.

In the financial section, however, the facts are found. There bond buyers are notified that the railroads have about reached the end of their string in raising money by selling bonds.

"It is felt that the maximum advantage has been taken from this means of raising money" is the diplomatic way to say that the railroads have been mortgaged to their limit, even with a most liberal valuation by the interstate commerce commission, and that further issues of bonds will jeopardize the entire structure, which is now carrying its "peak" load. It is stated that the only way future money can be raised is by economy, increased earnings and a "moderate issuance of new stock"—if same can be disposed of to the innocent lambs.

FAULTY RAIL EQUIPMENT PROVING PUBLIC MENACE

Washington, Feb. 24.—The failure of strikebreakers to maintain equipment on scores of railroads is proving such a menace to life and property that the department of justice announces it will enforce the safety laws.

It is stated that upwards of 100 railroads are not complying with the federal statutes regarding inspection and repair of equipment. The shop men have been making this claim continuously since July 1.

Wrecks have become so common that they attract little attention, and every student of the situation now agrees that the coal scarcity has been caused by the anti-union attitude of such railroads as the Pennsylvania, Delaware & Hudson, Central Railroad of New Jersey, New Haven, and other systems.

Public officials are also alarmed over prospects for handling spring business. It is declared that if present conditions continue the car shortage will break all records at a time when business is reviving.

ROADS CAN'T HAUL COAL.

New York, Feb. 24.—Testifying before representatives of the interstate commerce commission, officials of the Delaware & Hudson, the New York, New Haven & Hartford, and other railroads said coal shortages are caused by a breakdown of transportation.

Conditions on these roads can be directly traced to their anti-union attitude and the failure of their strikebreakers to repair equipment.

Investigators for the interstate commerce commission report that through New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania coal shipments were in many instances from 10 to 40 days reaching their destination, although some of the hauls were very short.

NO LABOR SHORTAGE.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 24.—Very little change took place in the manufacturing industries of this state from December to January, according to the state department of labor. In January a slight setback practically always occurs, it is stated. This year the reduction for all industries combined was only one-tenth of 1 per cent. About 13,000 employes were added to the pay rolls in some industries and a slightly larger number were released in other lines.

HUGE BANK PROFITS.

Philadelphia, Feb. 24.—The Fidelity trust company reports a net profit of $2,018,937 last year. This is a gain of $223,184 over the previous year.

JUDICIARY HAS NO RIGHT TO PASS ON LAW

Washington, Feb. 24.—"The constitution of the United States does not give to any court—district court, circuit court or supreme court—the right to pass upon and declare unconstitutional the acts of the sovereign assembly of this nation," declared Senator Owen of Oklahoma, in discussing a provision in the ship subsidy bill that recognizes the court's power.

The lawmaker quoted an early decision by Chief Justice Marshall to support this view, which the chief justice afterwards changed in the Marbury case when he held that the supreme court has the right to pass upon acts of congress.

"The congress of the United States ought then and there to have impeached John Marshall," said Senator Owen. "He was guilty of a violation of the true meaning of the constitution; he himself, in that act, as a judicial officer, violated the spirit and purpose and meaning of the constitution and he assumed the sovereign power over the legislative agents of the people of the United States.

"No civilized nation permits the judges on the bench to declare unconstitutional or void the acts of their parliaments.

"Great Britain, on February 6, 1700, declared that judges should hold their offices 'while they behaved themselves well,' subject alone to removal by resolution of parliament. This control of the judges sufficed. That is what I proposed in 1911 for the United States. I thought the time had then come for that rule in the United States.

"France does not permit the laws of her parliament to be set aside by the French judges. No French judge would dare to declare an act of the French parliament void or invalid in part, as this bill proposes to permit.

"Italy in her written constitutional law, provides that the judges shall not set aside an act of parliament.

"Austria does not permit judges to set aside an act of the Austrian parliament.

"Germany does not allow the judges of Germany to set aside an act of the reichstag.

"Belgium does not permit her judges to set aside the laws of Belgium.

"Denmark does not permit her judges to set aside the laws of the legislature of Denmark.

"Australia does not permit it; New Zealand does not permit it.

"I speak of these things because the civilized world, which has considered government by the people, has all agreed upon this doctrine, and there must be sound reason for this unanimous opinion of mankind. It is not an accident; it is written out of the blood and tears of centuries."

JUDGES' CODE OF ETHICS NEARLY AN INDICTMENT

New York, Feb. 24.—The code of ethics for judges, prepared by a committee of the American bar association, comes "very near reading like an indictment, with the names omitted," says the New York World.

"It might seem hardly necessary to instruct the judges of American courts that they ought to be careful to avoid even the slightest infraction of the law; that they should abstain from making personal investments in enterprises which are apt to be involved in litigation in their courts; that they should not suffer their conduct to create the impression that any person can unduly influence them or enjoy their favor; that they should not utilize information coming to them in a judicial capacity for purposes of speculation, or accept presents or favors from litigants or lawyers.

"All of these elementary rules and many others equally obvious, form part of the 34 canons designed to govern the conduct of judges on and off the bench, as prepared by a special committee of the American bar association.

"If there was nothing to criticise, nothing wrong, no improprieties or irregularities to be corrected, what occasion would there be for these primary-grade lessons in judicial ethics? If judges had no where transgressed by accepting presents or favors from litigants or lawyers, or made indiscreet investments or speculated on margin, why go so elaborately into the nature of these offenses against judicial ethics? In the circumstances, the public may fairly ask: 'What is it all about? What are the American bar association's special committee, Chief Justice Taft and the others aiming at?'

"For the 34 canons submitted come very near reading like an indictment with the names omitted."

MINERS HOLD LINES; ATTACKS ARE FUTILE

Indianapolis, Feb. 24.—The futility of recent attacks against the United Mine Workers of America is indicated by President Lewis' report that the paid-up membership of this international for the month of January, 1923, was 484,434. The previous month's membership was 476,091.

These figures do not include miners on strike nor members who did not work at least five days in each of these months.

"When we add these figures to the thousands of our members on strike and the thousands of men who in certain sections are suffering from unemployment," said President Lewis, "we find that our organization has an actual membership far in excess of 500,000."

NEW ANTI-UNION PLAN.

South Norwalk, Conn., Feb. 24.—The proprietor of the Gabbe fur dressing shop has originated a new brand of anti-unionism, which has resulted in a strike of organized fur workers.

According to a contract this anti-union shop would enforce, it would have the right to discharge at will, but if a worker quits his employment he must not accept any employment within a radius of 250 miles.

TO REPEAL CENSOR.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 24.—A bill to repeal the motion picture censor law has been introduced in the state legislature.

BROOM MAKERS' LOW WAGE

Washington, Feb. 24.—Broom makers averaged a weekly wage throughout the country of $17.30 in 1921, according to the United States census.

STATE LIABILITY FUND LEADS PROFIT SCHEMES

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 24.—The state fund workmen's compensation is better than private liability for profit, declares a committee of business men who are policy holders in the state fund and who have familiarized themselves with the workings of the fund and its management.

The report comes at a time when private liability insurance interests are whispering to state legislators that all is not well with the state fund.

Under the law employers may patronize the state fund or private companies. Organized labor is urging the abolition of private companies, as in Ohio.

The committee of business men find that "the financial condition of the fund is sound, insurers being protected by ample reserves properly invested.

"There is no evidence before the committee that the administration of the fund has been attended by any fraud or malpractice by any of its agents," it is stated.

The committee blames officials for not acquainting business men with the advantages of the fund as an offset to the propaganda of private insurance companies.

"The most striking fact is the relatively small amount of business written, scarcely $3,000,000 of premiums in a total of nearly $43,000,000. This is due to lack of information regarding the superior attractions of the fund as a carrier and to the unaggressive policy pursued through successive administrations.

"The committee is of opinion that this disparity would not long continue if employers generally knew that insurance in the state fund is much cheaper than insurance in private carriers and that under new conditions settlements with injured workmen will be unvaryingly prompt and satisfactory under the terms of the law. Any material increase would, of course, cut the net premiums by spreading the overhead costs."

COSTLY UNION BUSTING.

Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 24.—The union-smashing policy of the International railway company is proving most costly, according to a report to the state public service commission.

The report shows that for the quarter ending September 30 last, the first three months of the strike, there was a net loss of $2,618,919. During this quarter the company carried 5,674,972 passengers, whose fares mostly went into the pockets of the strikebreakers. In the previous quarter, before the strike started, the company carried 38,488,198 passengers.

The company is attempting to smash the Street Car Men's union and install a company "union." Organized street car men throughout this country and in Canada are alert to the significance of this move and are aiding the strikers.

The service the company now offers is indicated by the 793 accidents the first six weeks of the present year. Officials of the company are at their wits' end to excuse this condition. They now blame "slippery tracks," and are fearful the state will take action.

STOVE MOUNTERS GAIN.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 24.—Officers of the Stove Mounters' International union report wage gains in Rome, Chattanooga, Atlanta, and South Pittsburgh.

The annual convention of this international will convene at Chattanooga, Tenn., July 17 next.

FAVOR 48-HOUR WEEK.

Concord N. H., Feb. 24.—By a vote of 228 to 163 the state house of representatives passed the 48-hour work week law for women and children.

OUTLAWS UNCHECKED IN MOBBING WORKERS

Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 24.—Mobs yet rule communities along the line of the Missouri & North Arkansas railroad, where strikers and other citizens are only permitted to remain in their homes at the will of these outlaws.

Mrs. Homer Porch, wife of a druggist at Eureka Springs, about 40 miles from Harrison, told the legislative committee that is investigating the disorders, that she and her husband were "asked" to leave town by a "committee of twelve," whose names she gave the committee. She said she believed the reason she and her husband fell under the disfavor of the mob was because her husband said he "didn't believe Ollie Pritchett would get a fair trial in Carroll county." Pritchett is charged with bridge burning.

Testimony before the legislative committee revealed that Circuit Judge J. M. Shinn and Prosecuting Attorney Greenhaw of Boone county advised Luther Wise and E. D. Orr to plead guilty of burning bridges. The officials told the strikers that if they demanded a trial they might be lynched. The strikers pleaded guilty and were sentenced to seven years in the penitentiary.

F. W. Griffith, a striking fireman, told the legislative committee that he was given a "white ribbon" by the mob. This ribbon is supposed to be the mob's guarantee against lynch law, and supercedes constitutional guarantees. Later, Griffith said, he was told to leave Harrison, which he did, taking his family with him.

The Missouri & North Arkansas railroad's interest in the mob is indicated by a circular issued "To All Agents," and signed by J. C. Murray, vice president and general manager of the company. The circular has this caption: "Come to the Rescue: Our Country Is in Danger."

The circular makes this call for mob action:

"We have earnestly been trying to operate the property but can not and will not continue to pay out the earnings to rehabilitate burned bridges. It is now with the public as to whether or not they desire the continuation of this railway. And their desires will be expressed entirely in the protective measures they may and will take."

At Heber the mob now styles itself a county "welfare association," and has given Manager Murray and his policy its unqualified support.

The silence of the governor of the state is an encouragement to the mob, which finds no challenge to its overthrow of government of law.

HIGH STANDARDS SET FOR SPECIAL POLICE

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 24.—Governor Pinchot is hopeful that special police, appointed at the request of private corporations, can be civilized.

In a letter to the heads of corporations in this state the governor said that no such policemen will be commissioned in the future who can not satisfy him they are responsible, law-abiding citizens and competent to exercise the law-enforcing power of the state.

The governor's statement is a verification of the charge organized labor has often made against these special police, who have been appointed on the word of corporations, and are beyond the control of the state.

The governor notified the corporations that the names of any men who, upon investigation, may be found to be unsuitable will be forwarded to them and they will be asked to supply other men for the posts thus made vacant.

"On May 1 the commissions of any special policemen as to whom the necessary information has not been submitted, or who are found not to meet the requirements of the law will be revoked," the governor said.

SIGMAN IS ELECTED.

Baltimore, Feb. 24.—Morris Sigman was unanimously elected president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union at a special convention that was called because of the resignation of Benjamin Schlesinger. The latter held that office for nine years. President Sigman is a former secretary-treasurer of the international.

In his first statement the new official pleaded for unity and warned the garment workers of the dangers of dissension.

TERRORIZE WORKERS.

Charlotte, N. C., Feb. 24.—Textile mill owners are attempting to terrorize workers against aiding the state-wide organizing campaign of the United Textile Workers. A significant feature of this campaign is the attitude of young men who were in the army. Prior to the war, many of these chaps would be affected by the bosses' attitude, but now their confidence and independence is inspiring others.

FORCED ARBITRATION.

Salem, Ore., Feb. 24.—Anti-unionists want the state legislature to adopt a compulsory arbitration law, introduced by Senator Staples. Under this system the workers would have to arbitrate whether they could form trade unions.

NO STRIKE STATISTICS OF DEPENDABLE VALUE

Washington, Feb. 24.—The recent press announcement that the Pennsylvania department of labor and industry reports 807 strikes last year with a wage loss of $208,201,000 is contrary to a statement issued by the United States bureau of labor statistics, that it is impossible to estimate strike costs.

In an article printed in the Monthly Labor Review, issued by the bureau, September, 1920, it is stated:

"For a time efforts were made (by the bureau) to get at the costs of strikes, but it has been found, after a careful examination of the question that, except in some few isolated instances, not even their approximate cost can be ascertained."

The article, which was written by Edson L. Whitney, declares that "the elaborate calculations of costs of strikes, which make their appearance from time to time, generally under the title of estimates, are but mere guesses by the compiler, not statistical in character and frequently incorrect in their conclusions."

"For various reasons, in spite of the persistent efforts of the bureau, complete information of every strike can not be obtained, nor is it possible to say that the information is correct in every particular, especially since statements of employers and employes are frequently greatly at variance."

Some of the reasons for unreliable statistics, the writer shows, can be traced to the employers' practice of minimizing the number of workers in strikes, while the employes adopt an opposite policy. It is impossible to estimate loss of wages, because often strikers are in seasonal trades and the shut down merely changes the lay off. Strikers often secure other employment. Strikes often shift production to other plants, causing little loss to the industry.

UNION NEEDLE WORKERS ESTABLISH DRUG STORE

New York, Feb. 24.—A drug store for the use of members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union has been established by the union's health center.

This movement, it is stated, is because the workers are forced to submit to unscrupulous profiteering by druggists.

"Through proper buying and by means of co-operation of the various departments, prices charged will be but a small percentage of the usual charges at a drug store. Because we can replace profit motives by that of service, our charges for prescriptions will be at the rate of 25 and 35 cents for prepared prescriptions, the latter sum to be charged for the more expensive drugs," it is stated.

"The union health center's drug establishment has now a full line of drugs, and is ready to fill all prescriptions at the rates stated above.

"It is not our intention to limit the filling of prescriptions to those of our own doctors. We will be ready at all times to fill the prescriptions given to our members by any other physician.

"The drug store will be in charge of a registered, competent druggist."

WAGE HEALTH CAMPAIGN.

New York, Feb. 24.—Organized painters in this district have inaugurated an extensive campaign to minimize the health dangers in their calling. It has been proven that a five-day week makes it possible for a painter to get the poison out of his system, and the painters won this five-day week four years ago. Their victory, however, included so many "emergency provisions" that it means a five and a half-day week, which they now demand must be reduced to the original figure.

The painters' district council, representing 10,000 painters, maintains its own health bureau, which is equipped with scientific apparatus for the detection and prevention of occupational diseases.

In an examination of 267 painters it was found that the percentage of men afflicted with lead and other poisons was unusually high. It was also found that 40 per cent showed loss of weight; 43 per cent suffered from constipation; 23 per cent had muscular rheumatism; 18 per cent complained of general weakness and 13 per cent suffered from chronic headaches.

GARMENT WORKERS WIN

New York, Feb. 24.—Organized garment workers are winning their fight against piece work. More than 200 shops, employing approximately 7,000 of the striking workers, have reached an agreement with the union.

The union's officials have interested workers in 300 anti-union shops, who have also joined the movement against piece work. In these anti-union shops wages are from $10 to $15 a week.

CLOAK MAKERS WIN.

Philadelphia, February 24.—Organized cloak makers, members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, have won a 10-day strike for improved conditions. The employers agree to handle garments made in union shops only. It is declared this provision is the death blow to the "social" shop, which anti-union employers favor.

RAIL MANAGERS' CHARGE CAN NOT BE SUSTAINED

Hartford, Conn., Feb. 24.—Charges by General Manager Bardo of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad that striking shop men are guilty of sabotage fell flat before the legislative committee on railroads.

A letter from the interstate commerce commission stated that no inspector has reported emery in lubricants or loosened connecting rods, as charged two weeks ago by General Manager Bardo.

The shop men showed that incompetent strikebreakers are responsible for the condition of the road's equipment, and that this can be changed if the road accepts the Baltimore agreement, now in operation on more than 100 roads.

Henry T. Hunt, former mayor of Cincinnati and former member of the railroad labor board, said the hostility between managers and workers is not a natural one, and that it has been brought on by pressure upon managements for dividends.

Representatives of the shop men said the New Haven's propaganda indicated the desperation of these officials who are under orders of railroad financiers and stock jugglers.

If the affair was only between the shop men and the managing officials it would be quickly adjusted, the shop men say. The strikers declare that at the present time the New Haven road is "the most glaring example of railroad mismanagement in the United States."

COOLIES FOR HAWAII OPPOSED BY LABOR

Washington, Feb. 24.—The revival of a campaign to admit Chinese coolies into the Hawaiian islands has caused the executive council of the A. F. of L. to "reaffirm the protests and declarations of the A. F. of L. conventions against the admission of Oriental labor into the United States, its territories and possessions."

For nearly two years, the council says, there has been an intensive agitation in Hawaii to import 50,000 coolies and place them under bond, "thus making them debt slaves for five years or less if they become rebellious."

This agitation has been carried on by Hawaiian sugar planters and pineapple growers who have expended large sums to send agents to Washington to prevail upon congress to enact the necessary legislation.

"While the scheme, when first conceived, was for the importation of Chinese coolies to work in the sugar and pineapple industries, it has now shifted so that coolies are being demanded for the rice fields, thus disclosing the false pretense."

The resolution against this coolie importation closes with the declaration that "the A. F. of L. will exercise every influence to defeat this most un-American movement of the planters of Hawaii."

MATERNITY ACT UPHELD.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The federal maternity act has been upheld by Chief Justice McCoy in the District of Columbia supreme court. The decision was made in the case of a Massachusetts woman who challenged the validity of the act on the ground that it gives the federal government control over state governments by prescribing for the care of mothers and children.

The court ruled that the law comes under the "general welfare clause" of the constitution. An appeal was noted, and the case will be carried to the United States supreme court.

The maternity law was passed in November, 1921. Its purpose is to lessen the frightful mortality among mothers at childbirth and among children less than 1 year old. Where states appropriate money to educate mothers along lines laid down by the federal government, the latter will appropriate an amount of money equal to that appropriated by the state.

The campaign will include visiting nurses. There is no compulsion connected with this endeavor, and acceptance of this education and visitations are optional with mothers.

IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

Philadelphia, Feb. 24.—At a convention of 2,000 members of the Pennsylvania and Atlantic Seaboard hardware association, it was voted to refuse to do business with manufacturers and jobbers who compete directly with members of the association.

No comment is made of this action by forces that insist it is a "conspiracy" when workers refuse to labor.

HINDU NOT WHITE PERSON

Washington, Feb. 24.—A Hindu is not a "free white person" within the meaning of the naturalization laws and is not entitled to citizenship, according to a decision by the United States supreme court. The rule is based on the recent decision by the court excluding Japanese from citizenship.

JAPS BARRED FROM LAND.

Boise, Idaho, Feb. 24.—By a vote of 54 to 6 the state assembly passed a measure to prohibit the leasing of lands in this state to Japanese.

OPPOSE SUNDAY SHOWS; SIX-DAY WEEK ENOUGH

New York, Feb. 24.—The Actors' equity association has again declared for a six-day week and against Sunday shows. This action was taken at a meeting of the association's council.

"We believe in the age-old principle, 'Six days shalt thou labor,' particularly when it affects a delicate art like acting," said Executive Secretary Gilmore. "Therefore, I am glad to say that the council has reaffirmed its resolution of Nov. 30, 1919:

"That the Actors' equity association is on principle unalterably opposed to dramatic performances on Sunday, and will consistently devote its best efforts to preventing and curtailing the same."

"The council instructs all members of the Actors' equity association to decline to appear in Sunday performances of a dramatic and musical comedy classification, such being within our jurisdiction, whether for so-called subscription performances or otherwise, except when they are bona fide benefits."

The A. E. A. is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. It includes in its membership practically every theatrical star of both sexes on the American dramatic and musical comedy stage.

"INCIDENT IS CLOSED," OUSTED WORKERS TOLD

Washington, Feb. 24.—The civil service status of bureau of engraving and printing employes who were dismissed a year ago has been restored by the president. This means that they can be employed elsewhere in the government service—if they are fortunate enough to find positions.

When these employes were dismissed without a hearing their competency and even their honesty was questioned. The employes courted an investigation, which was done secretly, after which no more was heard of the charges.

The reinstatement of their civil service status is considered by the employes and their friends as half a confession that they have been wronged, and they are demanding that regular charges be preferred against them and they be permitted to answer or the wrong be wholly righted.

It was hoped relief would be secured from the white house, but a statement has been issued that the president considers the incident closed.

Senator Caraway introduced a resolution to investigate the dismissals, but Senator Calder, a "lame duck," who is in charge of that committee, says nothing will be done. The committee held a star chamber session but did not ask any of the victimized employes to appear.

COMMODITY PRICES UP.

Washington, Feb. 24.—As measured by changes in the index, wholesale prices of commodities, last January, were 13 per cent higher than those of a year ago, reports the United States bureau of labor statistics.

Building materials show the largest increase, 19½ per cent. Metals and metal products follow next with an increase of 18½ per cent. Farm products have increased 17¼ per cent; fuel and lighting materials 11½ per cent, and clothing 11⅛ per cent in price in the year.

BIG PROFITS IN POWDER.

New York, Feb. 24.—These are prosperous times for stockholders of the Atlas powder company, whose annual report shows a 6 per cent dividend on preferred stock, all taxes and other charges paid and a net profit of $2,189,603. This profit means a return of $18.93 per share of common stock, as against a return of $1.71 on the common stock in 1921.

CO-OPS. PROSPER.

Farmington, Ill., Feb. 24.—The co-operative store at this place reports a net profit of $5,809.12 for the last quarter of 1922. Total sales for the quarter were $40,774.25.

NIGHT WORK FOR WOMEN

Boston, Feb. 24.—Organized labor is opposing the effort of textile mill barons to legalize the employment of women until 11 o'clock at night.